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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMABASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1327
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7057

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNIDO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY OF REAR ADMIRAL ALBERTO JIMENEZ DE LUCIO

REF: STATE 197655

1. EARLY IN HIS CAREER, REAR ADMIRAL (RET.) ALBERTO JIMENEZ DE LUCIO EARNED A GOOD PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION AS A WELL-TRAINED AND EDUCATED SPECIALIST IN NAVAL CONSTRUCTION. HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS CLOSE TO NON-EXISTENT. HOWEVER, IN 1965, HE RESIGNED FROM A PART-TIME TEACHING POSITION HE HELD AT THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING UNIVERISTY IN PROTEST OVER THE EXPULSION OF FOUR PEACE CORP FACULTY MEMBERS. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FROM THE ARLY AND MID-SIXTIES STATES THAT JIMENEZ WAS THEN CONSIDERED TO BE A FIRM SUPPORTER OF THE UNITED STATES AND AN ANTI-COMMUNIST.

2. HOWEVER, AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT AS PRESIDENT VELASCO'S MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN 1971, JIMENEZ SUPPORTED THE VELASCO GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES. DURING HIS TIME AS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (1971-1973) AND AS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY(1974-1975), THERE WERE BASIC CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL
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POLICY AND COMPANY ORGANIZATION WHICH WERE JUDGED INIMICAL BY THE PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR. THESE POLITICES WERE PROMULGATED AT THE BEHEST OF PRESIDENT VELASCO AND HIS TECHNICAL ADVISORS, AMONG WHOM JIMENEZ MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE PLAYED A ROLE. HOWEVER, IF HE WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THESE POLICIES, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT HE MADE HIS OWN VIEWS KNOWN. DURING JIMENEZ'S ALMOST FOUR YEARS AT THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, HE IMPRESSED POPLE WITH HIS

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INSTINCTS FOR BUREAUCRATIC SURVIVAL. THE PRIVATE SECTOR DID NOT HOLD HIM IN HIGH REGARD NOR DID FELLOW NAVAL OFFICERS BECAUSE OF HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH FORMER PRESIDENT VELASCO. JIMENEZ, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF ANTI-INDUSTRY DECREES, IS RUMORED TO HAVE AIDED SPECIFIC COMPANIES IN WHICH HE OR HIS FRIENDS HAD AN INTEREST.

JIMENEZ RETIRED IN SEPTEMBER 1975. THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS OF THIS PREMATURE RETIREMENT. ONE IS THAT, AS A SPECIALIST AND NON-LINE OFFICER, JIMENEZ HAD LIMITED JPWARD ASSIGNMENT PROSPECTS IN THE NAVY AND THEREFORE RETIRED EARLY. THE OTHER VERSIONIS THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT, MORALES BERMUDEZ, FIRED HIM AT THE FIRST OPPOR-TUNITY, AS HAPPENED TO MANY OF VELASCO TEAM.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT THAT JIMENEZ IS AN EFFECTIVE MANAGER. IN REGARD TO HIS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC VIEWS, THE PICTURE IS LESS CLEAR.

FOR INSTANCE, THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY EXPECTED HIM TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PREDECESSOR WHEN HE TOOK THE INDUSTRY POSITION BUT FOUND HIM EVEN MORE TO THE LEFT. HOWEVER, HE IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE AN OPPORTUNIST RATHER THAN AN INDEALOGUE, ADJUSTING HIS VIEWS TO THE PREVAILING POLITICAL WINDS. FROM THE RECORD, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT JIMENEZ WOULD BE MORE AN EFFICIENT BUREAUCRAT THAN AN INDEPENDENT LEADER IN THE UNIDO POSITION.
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